

<p>Petitioner's Name: Commissioner Adelina R. Sorkin, LCSW/ACSE participates in Department of Children and Family Services Strategic Plan Workgroup Strategy 1.4.3</p> <p>Organizational Affiliation: Commission For Children and Families</p> <p>Address: 500 West Temple Blvd., B-22, Los Angeles, CA 90012</p> <p>Phone: 213 974-1558</p> <p>Fax:</p>	
<p>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES</p> <p>JUVENILE DIVISION</p> <p>Office of the Presiding Judge</p> <p>201 Centre Plaza Drive, Suite 3</p> <p>Monterey Park, CA 91754-2158</p>	
<p>On Behalf of: Strategic Plan Workgroup Strategy 1.4.3—By December 2013 reduce the percentage of youth in care three years or longer by ten percent, workgroup member Adelina R. Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW, focus group facilitator.</p> <p>Commission for Children and Families</p> <p>Petitioner</p>	<p>PETITION AND ORDER FOR RESEARCH</p>

Petitioner respectfully requests permission to conduct the following research described below:

1. Project purpose and description: The Department of Children and Family Services is currently implementing a strategic plan. An objective of the strategic plan is: *By December 2013, reduce the percentage of youth in care three years or longer by 10%.* To develop action plans to implement this objective, focus groups will be convened to better understand children and youth in care three or more years, to assess whether needs are being met and whether children and youth in this group have been engaged by the CSW. Findings from these focus groups will assist in developing strategies for successful permanency plans.
2. Proposed start date: August 1, 2013 Data collection completion date: September 15, 2013
Projected study completion date: September 30, 2013 Requested duration of access: September 30, 2013
3. Subjects or information Petitioner requests access to: Children and youth in foster care for three or more years from the following offices: Lancaster, Pomona, Metro North, and Vermont Corridor. The prospective focus group participants will include 7-10 participants per office. Each focus group will be one session of up to 90 minutes in duration. Participation in the focus group will be voluntary.
4. Methodology: Department will select participants (7-10) per group of children and youth in foster care three or more years who have been designated Permanent Plan and living in group home placement. The age groups are as follows: Lancaster—age 14-15; Pomona—age 16; Metro North—age 13-14; Vermont Corridor—age 13-14. Focus groups will be convened at each of the identified offices. CSW will be responsible for transporting or arranging the transportation of the children and youth to the group. The Facilitator will give the welcome, overview, ground rules and then proceed with the questions. The following questions will frame the discussion: What is your understanding as to you being in foster care? Who is important to you? What does DCFS need to do for you? What would you like to have happen? What is important for us to know about you? Facilitator will write notes of the group session and report findings to the Workgroup for inclusion in their recommendations. All notes taken by Facilitator will be marked confidential. At the conclusion of the study, all notes and findings will be turned over to the Department of Children and Family Services and will be the property of the Department of Children and Family Services.
5. Information to be extracted: Voice will be given to children and youth who have been in care for three years and more. DCFS will better understand the needs of the individual children and youth in long term care, and better outcomes toward permanency can be achieved.

6. Describe the potential benefits to the Courts, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation Department and/or the subject class as a result of this project: Enhance DCFS' efforts to achieve its Strategic Plan goal of reducing children and youth in care by December 2013 by 10%. Permanency outcomes would also improve by involving children and youth with permanent planning.

During this project, Petitioner agrees to the following conditions:

- A. To pay any and all costs incidental to the research or record search. These costs will be established prior to initiation of the project. No cost to the Department.
- B. Abide by all confidentiality laws, and policies and procedures of DCFS, Probation Department and the Court. Yes
- C. Abide by all confidentiality of record information requirements outlined in Penal Code section 13202 for delinquency records.
- D. Ensure that no unauthorized persons or agencies have access to the information released to Petitioner. Yes
- E. Make all scheduling arrangements with the appropriate agency to obtain access to information, minors, and/or staff.
- F. Ensure names or identifying information regarding minors, offenders or victims are not published in any documents (i.e. reports, evaluations).
- G. Submit all research reports using specific case information to the Court and the appropriate agency for approval prior to publication.
- H. Provide a copy of all research reports upon completion to the Court and the appropriate agencies.

Petitioner provided notice of the petition to the following parties, where applicable:

<input type="checkbox"/> County Counsel	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail
<input type="checkbox"/> DCFS	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Children's Law Center	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Courts Bar Assn.	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail
<input type="checkbox"/> District Attorney	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Defender	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Public Defender	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Probation	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Date served: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> personal service/fax/email; <input type="checkbox"/> US mail

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing and all attachments are true and correct.

Date: _____

Print Name of Petitioner

Signature of Petitioner

DCFS/Probation Department comments:

Request approved: _____

Request not approved: _____

Signature of Bureau Chief

Date: _____

Signature of DCFS Director/Chief Probation Officer/Designee

Date: _____

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DRAFT

This order shall remain in effect until _____.

Date:

Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court